

of presenting the measure, which provides for a reduction in the numbers of the members of the upper house from seven hundred and thirty to three hundred, apart from Princes of the blood. It also contains a provision for the creation of Peers for life, with uninheritable titles and privileges.

London, April 12th.—The death took place yesterday of the Earl of Gosford. He is succeeded by his son, Viscount Acheson.

Paris, April 13th.—The reparation commission tonight adopted the text of a note to Germany informing her that the commission's decisions of March 21st, notably as regards payment to be made until May 31st are maintained, and that if Germany does not take the necessary measures to put her finances in order, the commission will be obliged, on May 31st to exact penalties.

Norfolk, Va April 13th.—Berkely, a suburb of Norfolk, was swept by fire late today, which destroyed more than a hundred houses, covering an area of one mile in length and averaging from two to four blocks in breadth. Two hundred families are stated to have been made homeless, and the damage will run to nearly a million dollars.

Belfast, April 13th.—The Dunville distillery of this city has lodged a claim for 1,000,000 pounds, as its loss in the recent raid on the Dublin customs house bonded stores.

Sydney, N.S.W., April 13th.—The Australian Davis cup team will consist of only three men and not four, as previously announced. J B Hawkes will be unable to play with the team.

Paris, April 13th.—Judge Bonin, who was the investigating magistrate in the famous Landru case, dropped dead today of heart failure.

Tokio, April 13th.—Japanese troops have driven the Chita Government forces out of the neutral zone between them and the Vladivostok Government troops, says a despatch received in Tokio today from Vladivostok. The Japanese have forced the Chita troops as far North as Shamkovka, about 150 miles from Vladivostok, and are approaching the Ussuri station, a few miles further North, says the despatch. The Vladivostok Government troops have occupied the town of Olga.

Moscow, April 13th.—A despatch from Chita, Siberia, dated April 8th, says the Japanese have resumed their offensive forcing the Chita Government troops to evacuate several villages in the Amur region, and withdraw under fire. The Soviet minister of war, in an article published by the *Isvestia* today, entitled "Japan at Genoa and Vladivostok," declares the economic conference should realise that while Japan is trying to help settle world affairs she is simultaneously assisting and helping bandits in the Far East in maintaining a state of anarchy. Trotsky declares it is not the first time the Far East army has

scattered the "white" forces, only to have the Japanese appear from behind the curtain. The offensive, he declares, is being carried on despite the fact that the Chinese commander openly informed J. that it had no desire to fight. Citing the Brussifka incident, where thirty Chita soldiers are reported to have been killed or wounded, Trotsky declares "We note this in our book and place it to the account of Japan, and we shall present it at Genoa or some other place."

Dublin, April 13th.—The conference called by Lord Mayor O'Neill of Dublin in an endeavour to bring about tranquility between the adherents of the Free State and the followers of Eamon De Valera, met today in the drawing room of the Mansion House where Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and De Valera were wont to meet as comrades in the old Dail Eireann Cabinet. No agreement was arrived at during the session, and an adjournment was taken until next Wednesday. An official statement issued this evening, which announced that all those who had been invited by Lord Mayor O'Neill were present, concluded that, "It is the earnest wish of all the parties to the conference that there should be no interference with public meetings." The delegates on arriving at the Mansion House this afternoon were greeted enthusiastically by their respective supporters.

Paris, April 13th.—A number of United States drivers of relief waggons in Russia have been killed in the streets by the famished populace, who seized the horses for food, according to reports received today by American relief organizations in Paris from the Ufabashkeer and Tchi-liabuisk famine districts. Two drivers for the American relief administration were killed this week, the reports said. Several other employees of the relief administration, fearing for their lives, left their posts, the reports added. The danger has become so great that it is no longer safe to venture into the streets. People are being killed every day, it was said, and the natives, maddened from starvation, strip the clothes from the bodies of their victims. The reports said the United States relief workers were feeding 150,000 sufferers in the Ufa district, but that the death rate was continuing unabated. Cholera, small pox, typhus and dysentery are raging and the hospitals are destitute of supplies and extremely short of helpers. Bitter cold and the complete absence of fuel are adding to the suffering from serious intestinal disorders due to the eating of poisonous food in their desperate impoverishment. The reports said people were eating bark, roots, hides, dogs, cats, and even human flesh.

Genoa, April, 13th.—M. Barthou, French delegate to the conference, indignantly denied reports today that there had been a discussion between himself and Mr. Lloyd George, since they arrived

in Genoa in which he declared he was ready to listen patiently to both Germany and Russia. So far was this from the truth, said M. Barthou, that he, with Foreign Minister Schanzer of Italy, was having an important conference today with Mr. Lloyd George in connection with the conference, the real work of which would start tomorrow, he declared. "There are people in America and England", said M. Barthou, "who have such a false conception of France that they conceive of France as concealing always a dagger in her pocket and holding poignard between her lips. Probably it is due to the fact that we are not reducing our army and still further are declining to discuss disarmament and reparations at Genoa." M. Barthou expounded the entire French viewpoint on European politics. After pointing out that disarmament and reparations were not in the agenda, he reiterated that France was determined not to discuss these subjects at Genoa. He explained that the reparations question was already in the hands of the commission and urged that it was no reason why it should be treated at Genoa. France was not hostile to examination of disarmament, but the proper moment was not now. After referring to the death of twenty French soldiers in Germany, through the explosion of a bomb recently, while they were seeking concealed arms, he went on. "So long as Germany raises a bomb against the Versailles treaty, we will be obliged to take measures of precaution. To discuss disarmament under these conditions is like arguing about your life with somebody who is constantly running it." It was humiliating for France always to have to repeat to the Americans and English that we wanted peace. He compared France, who loses peace, to a woman who was extremely faithful to her duties, against whose baseless charges were made. Naturally the woman revolted. France lost the war of 1870, and during forty years did nothing to trouble the peace of the world, then, without provocation, she was attacked and lost a million and a half of her best youth and won a victory. But if France actually had the intentions some people credited her with, then France must be mad. "We have lost our manhood and our treasure", exclaimed the French Minister of Justice "but we emerged from the war cool, clear and logical".

Rio Janeiro, April 14th.—Weather conditions prevented the departure of the Portuguese aviators from St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, for the last leg of their attempted flight from Portugal to Brazil, says a despatch to the "Correio Da Marha" from St. Vincent timed at 11.40 o'clock this forenoon.